

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SAB-01 AF-10 EUR-25 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-19

DRC-01 (ISO) W

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R 051115Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1386

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0661

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, JO, GZ

SUBJ: GROWING WEST BANK SYMPATHY FOR JORDAN

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

REF: JERUSALEM A-127 (NOTAL) OF DEC 4, 1973

1. DURING FEB 2 CONVERSATION WITH MFA INTERMINISTERIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AFFAIRS (ARIEL), SUBJECT OF WEST BANK SENTIMENT FOR PLO WAS DISCUSSED. ARIEL SAID IT WENT WITH-
OUT SAYING THAT MAJORITY OF WEST BANKERS FELT SYMPATHY FOR AND IDENTIFICATION WITH PLO AS REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THIS FEELING HAD OF COURSE INCREASED DURING AND AFTER OCTOBER 1973 WAR, BUT HAD RECEIVED SPECIAL IMPETUS AS A RESULT OF PLO BEING NAMED SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AT NOV 1973 ALGIERS ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE. ARIEL SAID
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THAT AT THAT TIME WEST BANK SUPPORT FOR PLO WAS AT ITS HEIGHT.

2. GOI HAS NOTED IN PAST TWO WEEKS, HOWEVER, BEGINNING OF TREND AMONG WEST BANKERS TOWARD GREATER SUPPORT FOR JORDAN AND LESSENING OF SYMPATHY FOR PLO. WHILE EMPHASIZING THAT TREND WAS ONLY IN BEGINNING STAGES, ARIEL CITED SEVERAL FACTORS TO ACCOUNT FOR GRADUAL SHIFTING OF SUPPORT TOWARD JORDAN. FIRST, JORDAN HAS BECOME MORE ACTIVE ON WEST BANK IN PAST MONTH IN TRYING TO RALLY TRADITIONAL SUPPORTERS. GOJ REINSTITUTED PRACTICE OF PAYING SALARIES OF CIVIL SERVANTS AS OF (THIS IS ADDITIONAL TO SALARIES PAID CIVIL SERVANTS BY ISRAELI MILITARY GOVERNMENT.) JAN 1. ALSO, AVAILABILITY OF LOANS FOR WEST BANK MUNICIPALITIES FROM GOJ HAS INCREASED. FINALLY, ACCORDING TO ARIEL, GOJ HAS BEGUN TO LEVY DISCRIMINATORY TAXES ON PRODUCTS IMPORTED BY JORDAN FROM WEST BANK ENTERPRISES, OWNERS OF WHICH WERE KNOWN TO BE UNFRIENDLY TO HASHEMITE REGIME.

3. SECOND FACTOR WHICH ARIEL CITED AS AFFECTING WEST BANK ATTITUDES TOWARD JORDAN WAS SPATE OF RUMORS APPEARING OVER PAST FEW WEEKS THAT GOI AND GOJ HAVE HELD HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS OVER SEPARATION OF FORCES (TEL AVIV 560). ARIEL SAID THAT SOME WEST BANKERS HAD ACCEPTED THESE RUMORS AS FACT AND FORSAW DAY IN NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE WHEN JORDAN MIGHT REGAIN CONTROL OVER SOME PARTS OF WEST BANK. FINAL FACTOR WAS PLO'S INABILITY TO COME TO DECISION ON ANY NUMBER OF IMPORTANT POLITICAL ISSUES: ESTABLISHMENT OF GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE, PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA, RECONCILIATION WITH JORDAN, ETC. ARIEL SAID SOME SECTORS OF WEST BANK OPINION WERE BEGINNING TO DESPAIR OF PLO EVER BECOMING ANYTHING MORE THAN AN INEPT PARAMILITARY GROUP, INCAPABLE OF ORGANIZING ITSELF INTO A POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE CAPABLE OF NEGOTIATING FOR RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS.

4. COMMENT: ARIEL WAS GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC IN HIS REMARKS TO JORDAN'S EFFORTS TO SWAY WEST BANK OPINION. HE IMPLIED THAT ISRAEL WAS ENCOURAGING THESE EFFORTS AND CLEARLY HOPED THAT WEST BANK IDENTIFICATION WITH JORDAN WOULD CONTINUE TO GROW.
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